

YESTERDAY AT THE OPERA.

MME. ALMA WEBSTER-POWELL SINGS "GILDA."

New and Astonishing Substitute for Mme. Melba in Verdi's "Rigoletto"—Yet Caruso Makes Love to Her—Mozart's "Le Nozze di Figaro"—Well Given.

There were things indeed at the Metropolitan Opera House yesterday. Mme. Melba had faded away into the pine woods of New Jersey, carrying with her a bronchial affection of the sincerest sort. Even the woe of Gilda could not furnish her with sufficient recuperative power to enable her to appear at the matinee. Nevertheless, Verdi's "Rigoletto," that cheerful, but not inebriating version of Hugo's "Le Roi d'Amour," had to be given somehow. Mr. Caruso prides himself on his glorious record. Never yet has he sent an unhappy public home with its money returned because the advertised opera could not be given.

Mme. Sembrich had to sing Susanna in the evening, so she could not be called upon to take Mme. Melba's place in the afternoon. Of course, most of the opera school stood ready and more than willing to sing Gilda, but there were dangers in this. There was still one hope left, the young American prima donna soprano sfogato, Alma Webster-Powell, the lady with the piccolo register. It was she who in the fall of 1904, when she was at Carnegie Hall with the music of one Pirani, caught on catch can, and achieved the honor of a drawn bout. Pirani has since succumbed from the effects of the struggle, but Mme. Alma Webster-Powell lived to sing another day.

Despite the records of that awful night Mr. Corried, a truly charitable man, eager to give young artists a chance to soar among the high notes, engaged her as a regular member of this season's company. She sang at one Sunday night. Since that time she has been in reserve to keep Sembrich and other sopranos from becoming unmanageable. Yesterday was her chance and the way in which she sprang into the imminent deadly breach will long be cherished in the memories of those who do not think opera all skittles and small beer.

This was a truly ambitious Gilda. She could not be confined by the limits of her little back yard, but three several times walked through the brick fence and poured out her voice in the open air in the sight of all men. The rest of her act consisted of a continuous wailing of fiddle hands which somehow reminded one of Maeterlinck's "Le Aveugles" and a few blindingly brilliant recitatives which recalled the older Sothern in "Dundreary."

As for her singing, let it be recorded that she at least showed less fear of the pitch than she did when she sang at Carnegie Hall. In her duet with Mr. Caruso in the second act she actually shook hands with him. But "that voice," as the audience remarks when she hears Claude speak.

Where in the world is there a fellow in gaseous thinness, in pallid lifelessness, surely Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice" Webster-Powell, or he would not have pictured old men alone as piping and whistling in their childish frolic. But enough, such a feeble, hesitating, unsteady voice has never before been seen on the Metropolitan stage. Even Mr. Corried, who is so good to the young singer, can hardly have chattered sufficient to cover again the multitude of this one's sins.

Mr. Caruso, who was doing the best he could to make believe that he was harboring a passion for this glaucous voice, at last sang his second act duet with it like a gentleman. He tempered his wind into the storm tone, but he did not know that he had gone the high C one better! How they would have shouted their honorable bravo! Mr. Caruso was the same melancholy and laborious jester as before. It was not an afternoon of delicious joy. The old man in his "Le Nozze di Figaro" was not a success. He was the same old man, but the whole performance.

EUGENE YSAËS' CONCERT.

The Violinist Plays Three Concertos in One Afternoon Excellently.

Mr. YsaËs, the distinguished violinist, gave an omnibus concert at Carnegie Hall yesterday afternoon. He was apparently willing to play the entire literature of the violin, but lacking the time to do so performed as much of it as could be put into a crowded two hours. His selections were Mozart's concerto in E minor, the Saint-Saëns concerto in E minor and the Mendelssohn concerto. Walter Damrosch supplied the accompaniments and filled the intermissions between concerts. Mr. YsaËs' performance of the Mozart composition was for some reasons not an unmitigated joy. Mozart was something of a fiddler himself, but he was not a virtuoso, and he had no use for virtuoso tricks. He wrote on one occasion: "You know that I am no great lover of difficulties. He plays difficult passages so that one does not know that they are difficult, and thinks one can imitate him, which is true art."

YsaËs played easy passages as if they were difficult and as if no one could possibly imitate him. But aside from this performance, which was a masterpiece of every particular. He showed in the first movement especially the splendor of his style. The Saint-Saëns concerto the violinist played as he used to play, with breadth, dignity and repose with exquisite poetry of style.

Mr. Damrosch's men did their share of the afternoon's entertainment. They played Saint-Saëns' "Le Roi d'Omphale" with great delicacy and in the concerto of the same composer they played "L'Accompagnement de l'organe" with smoothness and daintiness.

THE ORATORIO SOCIETY.

The Annual Performance Which Keeps the Organization Going.

The Oratorio Society is an honest and ambitious organization and it deserves to live. In order that it may do so it is compelled every winter to perform Handel's oratorio, "The Messiah." It seems a pity that this masterpiece should be used as a pot boiler, but owing to the wide love for it and the lack of deep enthusiasm for other works of the oratorio species such has come to be the case.

Last night's performance at Carnegie Hall called into service as soloists Lillian Blauvelt, soprano; Janet Spencer, contralto; Lillian Blauvelt, soprano; Janet Spencer, contralto; Lillian Blauvelt, soprano; Janet Spencer, contralto. The chorus of the society discharged its industrial duties with zeal and ability. Mr. Young was not in good voice and did not sing as well as he can.

Mr. Corried, who had a huge voice and a crumhorn style. He has a great deal to learn, but he is young, and there is hope. Miss Blauvelt is heard to better advantage in other music, yet she sang creditably. Miss Spencer has a big and beautiful voice, but her singing yesterday did not disclose much understanding.

To Lecture on "Parasit." Rubin Goldmark, the composer, is to give a lecture on "Parasit" at the Metropolitan Theatre, Brooklyn, on Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 3.

THIS YEAR'S FREE LECTURES.

More of Them, Covering a Wider Range of Subjects Than Ever.

The second course of free lectures for the people, given under the auspices of the Board of Education, will begin on Tuesday in 130 lecture centres. The new course covers an unusually large field. That the lectures are more popular than ever is shown by the fact that 473,034 persons attended them in the months of October, November and December.

Altogether, 1,854 lectures were given, of which a large number were arranged in courses of from six to twelve lectures. A syllabus containing outlines of the lectures and bibliography is distributed to the auditors, and books for collateral reading in connection with the course are lent to those interested.

Among this year's lecture courses is one, at the American Museum of Natural History, on "Electricity," by Prof. Charles L. Harrington, on Saturdays; several others on the same subject in the schools; courses on physiology and hygiene, the "Prevention of Tuberculosis and First Aid to the Injured," on Thursdays; courses on ethics and education, by Dr. Edward Howard Grosvenor; and others: courses on literature, history and sociology, music and travel and geography.

ONLY MACVOY'S OWN FACE

And His Own Whiskers, for Rosenquest to Recite as Un- Irish.

And now comes Dan McAvoy, who says that when he plays the title role in "His Honor, Denis O'Reilly, Mayor of the Bowery," he does not wear any "wig, whiskers or anything else." "I simply play myself," says the ingenious comedian, "Dan McAvoy, with my own features, my own hair, and a dress suit similar to that I wore in 'Sally in Our Alley.'"

The occasion of Dan's outburst of denial is an application made by Samuel Blair & Co., who own the show "His Honor, &c.," for a reargument of the motion decided by Supreme Court Justice Fitzgerald last week. That decision refused to compel J. Wesley Rosenquest, proprietor of the Fourteenth Street Theatre, to carry out a contract he had made to allow the show to be produced for two weeks on his stage.

Rosenquest alleged that he had believed that the show was entirely proper, but later he discovered that McAvoy was dressed up to represent a son of Erin arrayed in greasy and other adornments that made him resemble, so Rosenquest said, a baboon more than a human.

Rosenquest rescinded his contract because, he explained, he expected audiences to see Irishmen caricatured. Justice Fitzgerald viewed a lithograph which was alleged to be a truthful depiction of McAvoy, and he decided that Rosenquest was justified in breaking the contract on the ground of misrepresentation.

In applying for a reargument, Samuel Blair says that the lithograph had no connection with the show, but depicted some artist's idea of an American Indian, not of Dan McAvoy. But his show caricatures any nationality, and Dan, joining in the chorus, asks how could he, an Irishman, be accused of ridiculing his fellow countrymen?

"I would not play such a part," says Dan, "and it is an insult to me, as an artist, in such a feeble, hesitating, unsteady voice has never before been seen on the Metropolitan stage. Even Mr. Corried, who is so good to the young singer, can hardly have chattered sufficient to cover again the multitude of this one's sins."

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In the evening, Mozart's lovely comic opera "Le Nozze di Figaro" was sung with a good cast, including Mrs. Sembrich, Suzanne, Mme. Eames as the Countess, Mr. Scott as Almaviva and Mr. Bliss as Figaro. In every way the performance was better than the former ones, with some showing marked improvement, but, of course, the honors went to Mrs. Sembrich and Eames, who won general blessings for their beautiful singing. Mrs. Sembrich was so annoyed by noises behind the scenes in her "Dove Sono" that she stopped singing and hissed for silence.

THE BENEDICT OF RESOURCE.

A Vandeville Sketch by Mrs. Jay Fox Has a Trial at Keith's.

A Vandeville sketch written by Mrs. Jay Fox had a try out yesterday afternoon at Keith's. The sketch occupies about twenty minutes and tells the story of a little quarrel and reconciliation after six months of wedded life.

The husband objects to his wife's requests for money and also to a lone trip to California which she is planning. He makes a deal with a bachelor friend to write him a letter, supposedly from Paris, inviting him to join him in that city and help him take care of two young women.

The play is called "The Bachelor's Friend," and it does the business. They take the trip to California together.

Irving Place Company to Play in Boston.

Heinrich Corried will start for Boston on Monday, taking with him a contingent of the Irving Place Theatre company to appear at Sanders Theatre on Tuesday for the Schiller festival. The company will appear in "The Student" and "Das Verschiebte Bild."

Fritz Kreisler Here for a Concert Tour.

Fritz Kreisler, the Austrian violinist, was a passenger on the steamer Philadelphia, which arrived yesterday from Southampton. He will begin his tour of sixty concerts with a special orchestral concert in Carnegie Hall on Tuesday evening. It is three years since he was last heard here.

Judgment for Victor Herbert Affirmed.

The Court of Appeals has affirmed the judgment for \$3,000 obtained almost two years ago by Victor Herbert, the musical composer and conductor, against the Musical Courier for the publication of articles reflecting on his ability and musical genius.

Henry W. Savage's Week With the Grip.

BALTIMORE, Md., Dec. 31.—Col. Henry W. Savage, whose opera company closed a week's engagement here to-night, started for New York to-day after having been confined to his bed at the Belvidere for a week. He has had a severe attack of grip and for a time his symptoms were alarming.

Muriel Foster, English Contralto, Here. Muriel Foster, the English contralto, who made her first appearance in this country last winter, returned yesterday on the Philadelphia for a season concert. She will sing here with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Head Your New Year's Resolutions

Plans for the National Academy of Design.

ITS 50TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION OPENED YESTERDAY.

Nearly Four Hundred Paintings in the Galleries of the Fine Arts Society Building in Fifty-seventh street.—A Portrait of Florence Nesbit In.

In the galleries of the American Fine Arts Society's building in West Fifty-seventh street, the National Academy of Design opened its eightieth annual exhibition to the public yesterday. The exhibition will continue until Jan. 23, the galleries being open from 10 in the morning until 6 o'clock, and from 8 until 10 o'clock in the evening of each week, and on Sunday afternoons from 1 o'clock until 4.

There are 383 paintings on view, besides fifteen pieces of sculpture, and a large number of the lot, with sundry illustrations, is obtainable for 25 cents. On Sunday afternoons the exhibition is free.

Childs Hassam is officially declared to have painted the best American figure composition done in the United States by an American citizen, and the Thomas B. Clarke prize of \$300 has been awarded to him for this prize. Hassam's American figure composition is called "Lorelei." It is a painting of a nude woman sitting at the base of a cliff, and one can almost hear her answering "Why?"

The Inness gold medal, presented by George Inness, Jr., in memory of his father, for the best landscape in the exhibition, is awarded to Edward Gay for his canvas of "The Exhibition Entitled 'In the South Wind.' Mr. Gay is recorded in the catalogue as a member of the jury of selection. He is the only member of the jury this year to win a prize.

Thomas Eakins, N. A., of Philadelphia, takes the Thomas R. Procter prize of \$200, "for the best portrait in the exhibition," for his portrait of Prof. Leslie W. Miller, which hangs in the place of honor in the Vanderbilt gallery.

The Hallgarten prizes of \$300, \$200 and \$100, for the best three pictures in oil color painted in the United States by American citizens under 35 years of age, have been given to F. Luis Mora for "The Letter," a composition of two young women of a day before yesterday, seated on a settee and reading; Gustav Wiegand, of Brooklyn, for his "Moonrise—Early Spring," and M. Petersen of Jersey City, for his single exhibit, "Curiosity Seeker."

The next international marriage will be that of Miss Lulu Pfizer and Viscount Newry. Miss Pfizer has her own big fortune, of course, which she got from her father. She took the name of her stepfather, Charles Pfizer, a dozen years ago. Viscount Newry arrived here yesterday from England, where she has been for eighteen months.

The first of the new year's weddings will be that of Miss Eleanor Russell and Lothian Graeme Scott of England, on Tuesday afternoon, at the Church of the Incarnation, Madison avenue and Thirty-fifth street. The Rev. Dr. Buttershott, rector of St. Peter's Church, Albany, will perform the ceremony at 3:30 o'clock, assisted by the Rev. William Mercer Grosvenor, the rector of the church. The bride will be attended by her sisters, the Misses Josephine Russell and Marie L. Russell as bridesmaids and by Mrs. Harold Fitz Gerald, the mother of the bride. The bridesmaids are Misses Frederic Rotch, J. Wells Farley and Harold Fitz Gerald of Boston and George Weston, Cecil Barrett and Rodman Gilder of New York. The bridesmaids are Misses Josephine Russell and Marie L. Russell as bridesmaids and by Mrs. Harold Fitz Gerald, the mother of the bride. The bridesmaids are Misses Frederic Rotch, J. Wells Farley and Harold Fitz Gerald of Boston and George Weston, Cecil Barrett and Rodman Gilder of New York.

Miss Russell is the eldest of the several daughters of Judge and Mrs. Russell and is a granddaughter of the late Judge Hilton. Mr. Scott, whose home is in Forest Lodge, Eastbury, Hants, England, is in the diplomatic service and is an officer in the Cumberland Hussars. He is a son of Lieut. Col. Lothian Kerr Scott, an inventor and authority on fortifications.

Among the dinner givers on Tuesday night will be Miss Chandler, who entertains Miss Alexandra Stevens and Mr. George Kobbé of 139 Madison avenue. The guests of these and several others will go later to the second and junior cotillion at Sherry's.

Mr. and Mrs. Garrett B. Kip, the former a son of Mrs. John Blake Baker, who have an apartment here at 59 West Forty-fourth street, left town on Friday for Rhinebeck, where they are entertaining a dozen or more friends over the holidays.

The wedding of Miss Emeline Louise Deen and the Rev. B. Oakley Baldwin, rector of St. Mary's Church, Scarborough-on-the-Hudson, will take place on Wednesday in St. Matthew's Church. Bishop Greer will perform the ceremony, assisted by the Rev. Arthur A. Judge, and the bride will be given away by her father, William Morris Deen. She will be attended by her sister, Miss Florence Virginia Deen, as maid of honor and by the Misses Constance Berry and Georgienne Bramhall of New York as bridesmaids. Mr. and Mrs. Deen will give a reception after the ceremony at their home, 36 West Eighty-third street.

Mr. and Mrs. William Douglas Sloane give one of the big dances of the week at their home on Fifth avenue on Friday night.

The engagement of the widower, George Crocker, to Miss Beatrice Wright, the pretty niece of the late Mrs. Crocker, and the talk of the marriage of the couple in the near future are interesting society. Mr. Crocker's brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Alexander, give a dinner for him and his fiancée on Saturday night. The late Mrs. Crocker died at Newport in August, and had been an invalid for some years.

The Duke and Duchess of Manchester, with their little son and daughter, Viscount Mandeville and Lady Mary Montague, who came over from Europe not long since with James Henry Smith, are still in guests. He is entertaining his holiday house party at Kinross, his place at Tuxedo.

Mrs. Whitelaw Reid and her daughter, Miss Jean Reid, have cards out for Monday from now on through the season. Mrs. William Sheffield Cowles, one of the sisters of President Roosevelt, who was here for the coming out dinner dance of

Plans have been filed for the new home and asylum building to be erected in Convent avenue between 135th and 136th streets for the Orphans' Home and Asylum of the Protestant Episcopal Church, now in East Forty-ninth street near Lexington avenue. It is to be a four-story structure, with a frontage of 15 feet and a depth of 35 feet and a 25-foot extension. The cost is estimated at \$125,000.

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Arnold, Constable & Co.

COMMENCING TUESDAY, JAN. 3rd.

A Special Sale of Lingerie

of finest American manufacture, illustrating the latest French and home ideas. The offering will be unusually large and varied, and will include many exquisite Matched Sets in Lace and Embroidery.

NIGHT ROBES.....	75c to \$3.75
WALKING SKIRTS.....	75c to 3.75
CHEMISES.....	\$1.25 to 4.50
CORSET COVERS.....	50c to 1.50
DRAWERS.....	50c to 3.00

Also Our Spring Importations of

Fine Embroideries

Consisting of the newest styles and combinations in Swiss, Nainsook, Cambric and Linen Sets, Baby Sets, All Overs, Flouncings, Galons, Bands and Motifs, in blind, broderie, Anglaise and heavy raised work novelty effects.

Ecru embroidered Batiste Edges, Insertings and All Overs, in unusual qualities and designs. Embroidered Batiste Robes, semi-ready. Linen Shirt Waist Patterns.

SPECIAL.

Swiss, Nainsook and Cambric

Edges and Insertings in most desirable effects, 4 to 12 inches wide,

18c, 25c and 35c a yard

being one-third below the regular prices.

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, January 3rd and 4th.

Fine Hand Made Linen Laces

Consisting of 10,000 yards of Torchon, Medici and Cluny Edgings and Insertings, the highest grade Laces of their kinds; exquisite new designs, many in Matched Sets.

22c to 3.00 a yard

being one-third to one-half under regular prices.

Also on TUESDAY, JANUARY 3rd,

2,750 Yards

Printed Foulards and Pongees

In rich Oriental designs of Foreign Manufacture; exceptional quality, 28 and 44 inches wide.

Formerly \$1.50 and \$2.50 65c a Yard

Broadway & 19th Street.

IN SOCIETY.

The new year ushers in a period of social gaiety. Some prominent matrons have cards out for balls and others are selecting dates in February in order not to conflict with the exhibition of the National Academy of Design. The Charity Ball, to be given on Friday night, Jan. 2, at the Waldorf-Astoria.

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ART SALES AND EXHIBITIONS.

Do not use the word magnificent till you have seen this display.

NO ONE CAN AFFORD TO MISS SEEING IT.

The American Art Galleries

Madison Square South, New York.

An Event of Great Importance.

Free View To-morrow, Monday,

And Following Days, 9 A. M. to 6 P. M.

THE GRAND YAMANAKA COLLECTION

The whole forming a most important gathering of rare and carefully selected objects which adequately represent

THE ARTS AND HANDICRAFT

OF

ANCIENT AND MODERN

JAPAN, CHINA AND KOREA

ALSO ON EXHIBITION

The Grand Nikko Temple Room

WITH ITS SPLENDID FURNISHINGS

Recently awarded a Grand Prize at the World's Fair, St. Louis.

A popular Japanese proverb says, "Do not use the word magnificent till you have seen Nikko." Nikko wo minai uchi wa, "Kekko" to iu na!

"Nikko" is a double glory—a glory of nature and a glory of art. Mountains, cascades, monumental forest trees had always stood there. To these, in the 17th century, were added the mausolea of the illustrious Shogun Ieyasu, founder of the Tokugawa dynasty, and of his scarcely less famous grandson, Iemitsu. "Japanese wood carving and painting on wood being then at their zenith, the result was the most perfect assemblage of shrines in the whole land. But though there is gorgeousness, there is no gaudiness. That sobriety which is the keynote of Japanese taste, gives to all the gay designs and bright colors its own chaste character."

At Unrestricted Public Sale

On the Afternoons of January 5th, 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th & 11th, and Evenings of January 9th & 10th.

A Finely Illustrated Catalogue Published in Two Parts Will Be Mailed on Receipt of Fifty Cents.

The Sale Will Be Conducted by Thomas E. Kirby of

THE AMERICAN ART ASSOCIATION, MANAGERS,

6 East 23d Street, Madison Square South, New York.

teen-year-old son, Robert Fulton Cutting, at the Groton School, contrived to fracture his leg while out skating.

Invitations are out for the wedding of Miss Florence Louisa and Frederick B. Alexander, at St. Thomas's Church, on Monday, Jan. 16. Miss Edith Louisa, to be maid of honor. The family of the bride live in the country, so there will be no house reception.

The engagement is announced of Miss Elizabeth Blakie Swift, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Abbott E. Kirtledge of 711 Park avenue, to Howard McKesson Kirkland of this city.

Ex-Judge and Mrs. Horace Russell of Park avenue and Thirty-seventh street gave a dinner last night for the bride and groom. Miss Eleanor Russell, who is to be married on Tuesday afternoon in the Church of the Incarnation. The guests included Mrs. Harold Fitzgerald, Miss Russell, Frederic Rotch, Harold Fitzgerald, J. Wells Farley, Rodman Gilder, Cecil Barrett and George Weston. The bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. V. Nostrand, Mr. Burke Roche, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Aymar, Alfred Wastell, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Snow, M. G. Thornton Warren, George I. Scott, Mr. J. F. D. Lanier and F. S. Witherbee.

HOLIDAY WEEK AT TUXEDO.

New Year's Eve Ball at the Clubhouse—Dinners at the Cottages.

TUXEDO PARK, Dec. 31.—Bright skies with ideal weather favored the society people at Tuxedo to-day. The chief attraction was the ball at the clubhouse to-night, which attracted a large gathering, principally the younger set.

The halls of the clubhouse were most tastefully decorated for the ball with roping of evergreen and wreaths of holly and mistletoe. The usual custom of ushering in the new year was gone through at midnight. The punchbowl was brought to the center of the ballroom and as the new year approached all joined with brimming glasses in singing "Auld Lang Syne." A special table d'hôte dinner was given at the clubhouse, at which many large parties were given.

Several attractive coasting and tobogganing parties were given to-night and the park was crowded